

Such an exchange can be of enormous benefit to both Rio and Maryland. The greatest benefit, however, may accrue to all peoples in all countries, for our success can serve as an inspiration — it can serve to coax others to follow this peaceful and progressive course that is certain to produce lasting understanding among men and nations.

ADDRESS, THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF RIO, BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO

November 16, 1965

Governor Torres, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:

May I say at the outset that I consider your invitation to speak to you today as one of the highest honors and privileges of my life. As one who has been in politics almost all of his career, I know of no higher honor than to be able to appear before a body of elected representatives of the people. As Governor of Maryland I have the privilege and the pleasure of addressing our own State Legislature from time to time. But never in my imaginings did I ever believe that I would one day be invited to appear before a State Legislature of another great nation, 3,000 miles away from my home in Maryland.

For making this wonderful moment possible I pay my humblest respects to the generosity and fraternity of the "Fluminense" people and to your energetic and distinguished Governor, Paulo Torres. Although I have been in your magnificent State of Rio only a short time, I already feel that I have become a true "Fluminense." And, to borrow a phrase from that great statesman, Winston Churchill: "Perhaps if I had been born here in the State of Rio, I might have been able to have gotten into this illustrious body on my own."

Moreover, I cannot tell you how great a pleasure it affords me to be able to address a state legislature without having to ask for higher taxes or plead for the passage of legislation. Here in the State of Rio you accord me all of the privileges and honors of appearing before this assembly, while sparing me all of the burdens. I cannot see how any governor could possibly find himself in a more delightful situation.

I do not know for certain, but I would be willing to guess that this is the very first time that the governor of a state of the United States